

Astrix Villemstad

Astrix Villemstad Association Football Club is a professional association football club based in the suburb of Arnja, in Villemstad, Solaria, Pharos. They play their home games at the Mars Stadion, after moving from Maron Ground in 2016.



History

Foundation and early years

The club was founded on 28 June 1904 in Vagen, Villemstad's port area. They played their home games in an open field in the area called Boulevard, home of the Pharonian-football team Huls FC. Astrix was admitted in Solaria's 2nd division and their first game was played on 1 September 1904, against Odence; with 3,000 in attendance at the Boulevard, Astrix notched up an impressive start holding the more experienced Odence team to a 2–2 draw. Astrix finished in 5th place.



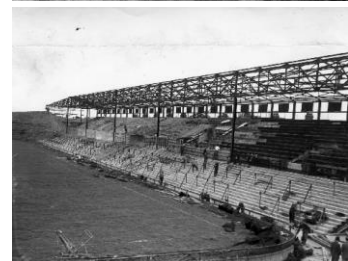
Amel Langen

Under the managership of Amel Langen, footballer and later secretary, Astrix continued to finish consistently in the top half of the table of the 2nd division. A turning point for the club came in 1913. Dalton SC (then SK Villemstad) decided to move to Vagen, with their owner Helnus Norr building a new stadium. Astrix's board decided to move to Arnja, to SK Villemstad's old

stadium, Maron Ground, that could hold more than 10,000 spectators, almost triple than their Boulevard.

Astrix finished 2nd in the Solarian 2nd division in the 1914-15 season and were promoted to the 1st division for the first time. In 1917 they built a new East Stand to increase Maron Ground's capacity.

By the early 1920's Astrix was becoming a major force in the Solarian football scene, challenging SK Villemstad's dominance. Led by former player and new manager Terel Nell, the 'astros' won back-to-back Solarian Championships in 1922 and 1923, featuring players like left back Levi Fiel,



**Maron Ground 1910's
and the building of the
east stand in 1917**

midfielder Yann Fulner and center forward Rob Holan. Unfortunately, they did not perform well in the National Championship, finishing second-last and last, since the gap between Solarian clubs and the rest of Pharos was huge at that time.



Astrix Villemstad 1922

Top (from left): Terel Nell (manager), Munli Sten, Levi Fiel, Cheter Nyrin, Helnus Feik, Ren Gergel, Rogem Sotorn, Gaal Tromsen (trainer). Bottom (from left): Yann Fulner, Rob Holan, Yugo Riha, Net Droz, Jarro Tamian

90 years of mediocracy

After Astrix's 1923 championship title, the club went into a slump, that would last for more than 90 years. Maron Ground was expanded, with stands in all four sides, reaching a 25,000 capacity by early 1950's.

Most of this time Astrix would finish in mid-table in the Solarian League. They would also been relegated to the 2nd division twice, in 1939 and 1948.

When PSL was formed, Astrix remained in the Solarian local league, winning their 3rd Solarian championship in 1987, but failing to be promoted to



Maron Ground 1950's

the PSL. Their next championship came in 2014, when they were promoted to the PSC A division, the 3rd tier of the Pharonian footballing system.

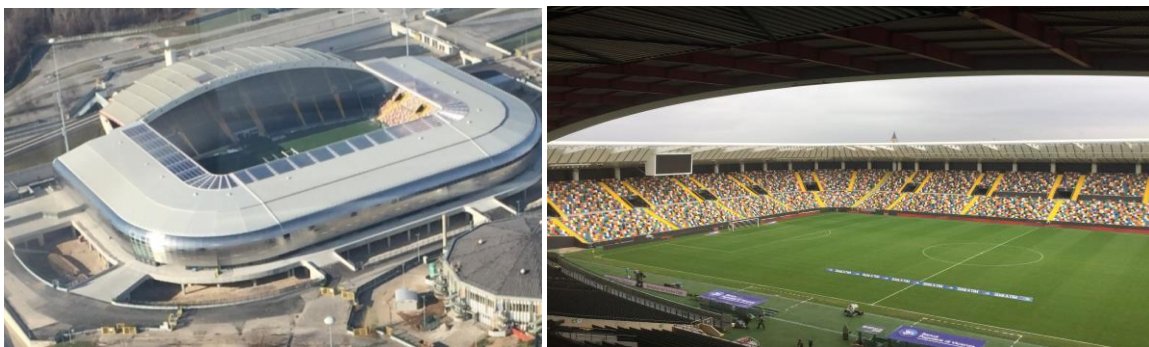
Kleon Iskil, the new Stadium and the PSL era

In 2010, Pharonian millionaire Kleon Iskil acquired the club's shares. Iskil, owner of channel TV8, the digital platform Isnex and the international TV production company ISKILMEDYA, started investing heavily to the club, starting with the construction of a new, modern stadium. Mars Stadion became a pet project of Kleon Iskil, who wanted to take Astrix to the next level by making them permanent members of PSL's top flight.

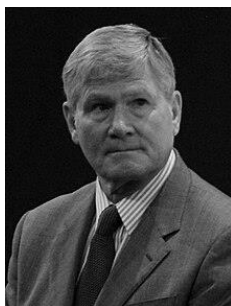


Kleon Iskil

Costing an estimated ff 120 million, the stadium was designed by ATJ Architects, and it replaced the club's previous ground which has now been relegated for the use of both reserve and youth team matches. Iskil signed an early deal with the city of Villemstad, envisaging a partnership in which the businessman would cover reconstruction cost himself in exchange for freehold of the stadium land. The deal was eventually confirmed in 2012, seeing the club claim 99-year lease of the building. The simple skeleton was covered by large and impressive façade of satin-finished steel. Roughly 10,000 "diamond" scales by Archea cost some ff 1 million and reflect sunlight or nighttime illumination, giving the stadium an elegant look. The stadium can hold 25,144 all-seated and covered spectators.



Mars Stadion



Yol Iders

Astrix, under manager Yol Iders, finished in 7th and 6th positions in their first 2 seasons in PSC A, before gaining a promotion to PSL B in 2017, winning the play-off games for promotion against Albatros Helsinborg and Del Rey Hilvar. In their first ever season in PSL, Astrix finished 3rd and were promoted to PSL A for the first time in their history. Iders introduced players like goalkeeper Escel



Escel Bruel



Fenel Marty

Bruel, midfielder Tomaz Stander and forwards Omar Honban and Abbot Morel, that would become internationals.

Astrix could not remain in PSL A, as they finished in 16th place and were relegated back to 2nd division. Fenel Marty replaced Iders as manager.

Marty led the team back to PSL A immediately, but once again Astrix failed to stay in the top division, as Iskil sold some key players to bigger clubs. After failing promotion in 2021-22, Marty was let go and

58-year-old Jan Parp was given the job, with Iskil reorganizing the club, promoting players from the youth squads.

Astrix achieved another promotion to PSL A, the third in 7 years. This time they managed to stay in the league, finishing 3 points clear of the relegation zone.



Jan Parp